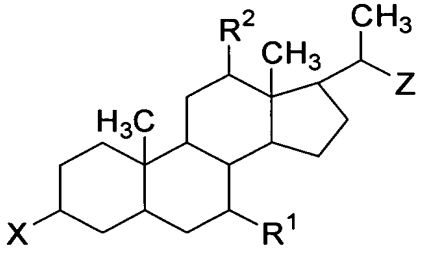
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for achieving sustained therapeutic or prophylactic blood concentrations of a GABA analog or an active metabolite thereof in the systemic circulation of an animal which method comprises orally administering to said animal a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or hydroxy;

X is hydroxy;

Z is a group of the formula:

$$-M-Q^b-D'$$

wherein:

M is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2OC(O)-$ and $-CH_2CH_2C(O)-$;

Q^b is ~~a covalent bond or~~ a linking group of formula:

$$-[E-(F^*)_n-G]_m-$$

wherein:

m is an integer of from 1 to 4;

n is 0 or 1;

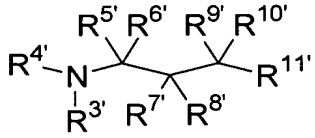
E is ~~–NH– or~~ –O-;

F* is selected from a group consisting of alkylene, substituted alkylene, alkenylene, substituted alkenylene, alkynylene, and substituted alkynylene~~, cycloalkylene, substituted cycloalkylene, cycloalkenylene, substituted cycloalkenylene, arylene, substituted arylene, heteroarylene, substituted heteroarylene, heterocyclene and substituted heterocyclene~~; and

G is ~~–OC(O)–~~, -C(O)~~–, or –NH–~~;

wherein Q^b is cleavable under physiological conditions provided that Q^b is not a linear oligopeptide consisting of 1, 2 or 3 α-amino acids and/or β-amino acids; and

D' is a GABA analog moiety of the formula:



wherein:

$R^{3'}$ is a covalent bond linking the GABA analog moiety to Q^b;

$R^{4'}$ is hydrogen or $R^{4'}$ and $R^{9'}$ together with the atoms to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring;

$R^{5'}$ and $R^{6'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{7'}$ and $R^{8'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl, or $R^{7'}$ and $R^{8'}$ together with the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclic or substituted heterocyclic ring;

$R^{9'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{10'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{11'}$ is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylic amide, and carboxylic ester~~, sulfonamide, phosphonic acid, acidic heterocycle, sulfonic acid, and hydroxamic acid~~; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein

R^1 and R^2 are both α-OH; or

R^1 is β-OH and R^2 is hydrogen; or

R^1 is α-OH and R^2 is hydrogen; or

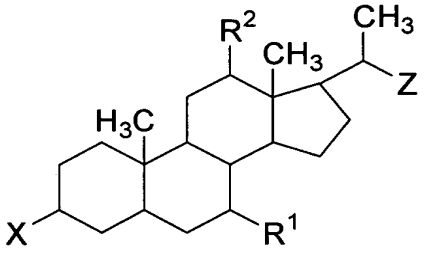
R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is α-OH; or

R^1 is β-OH and R^2 is α-OH; or

R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein –M-Q^b-D' is selected to cleave under physiological conditions at a rate to provide a therapeutic and/or prophylactic blood concentration of the GABA analog or active metabolite thereof in the animal for a period of at least about 10% longer than when the GABA analog is orally delivered by itself at an equivalent dose.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or hydroxy;

X is hydroxy;

Z is a group of the formula:

$$-M-Q^b-D'$$

wherein:

M is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2OC(O)-$ and $-CH_2CH_2C(O)-$;

Q^b is ~~a covalent bond or~~ a linking group of formula:

$$-[E-(F^*)_n-G]_m-$$

wherein:

m is an integer of from 1 to 4;

n is 0 or 1;

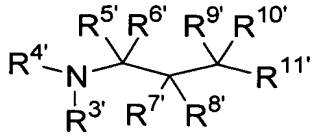
E is ~~–NH– or~~ –O-;

F* is selected from a group consisting of alkylene, substituted alkylene, alkenylene, substituted alkenylene, alkynylene, and substituted alkynylene, ~~cycloalkylene, substituted cycloalkylene, cycloalkenylene, substituted cycloalkenylene, arylene, substituted arylene, heteroarylene, substituted heteroarylene, heterocyclene and substituted heterocyclene~~; and

G is ~~-OC(O)-~~, -C(O)- ~~or –NH-~~;

wherein Q^b is cleavable under physiological conditions; and

D' is a GABA analog moiety of the formula:



wherein:

$R^{3'}$ is a covalent bond linking the GABA analog moiety to Q^b;

$R^{4'}$ is hydrogen or $R^{4'}$ and $R^{9'}$ together with the atoms to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring;

$R^{5'}$ and $R^{6'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{7'}$ and $R^{8'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl, or $R^{7'}$ and $R^{8'}$ together with the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclic or substituted heterocyclic ring;

$R^{9'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{10'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

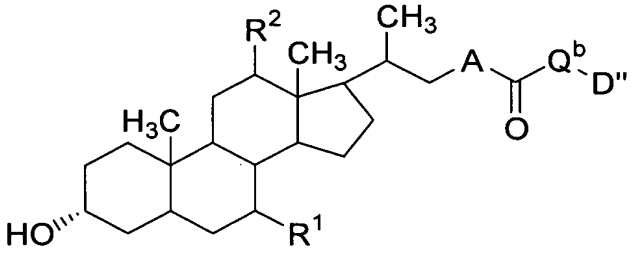
$R^{11'}$ is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylic amide, and carboxylic ester~~, sulfonamide, phosphonic acid, acidic heterocycle, sulfonic acid, and hydroxamic acid~~; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

~~provided that when X is hydroxy, M is $-CH_2CH_2C(O)-$, Q^b is a covalent bond and $R^{11'}$ is carboxylic acid, then at least one of $R^{5'}$, $R^{6'}$, $R^{7'}$, $R^{8'}$, $R^{9'}$ and $R^{10'}$ is other than hydrogen; and~~

~~further~~ provided that Q^b is not a linear oligopeptide comprised exclusively of 1, 2 or 3 α-amino acids and/or β-amino acids.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II):



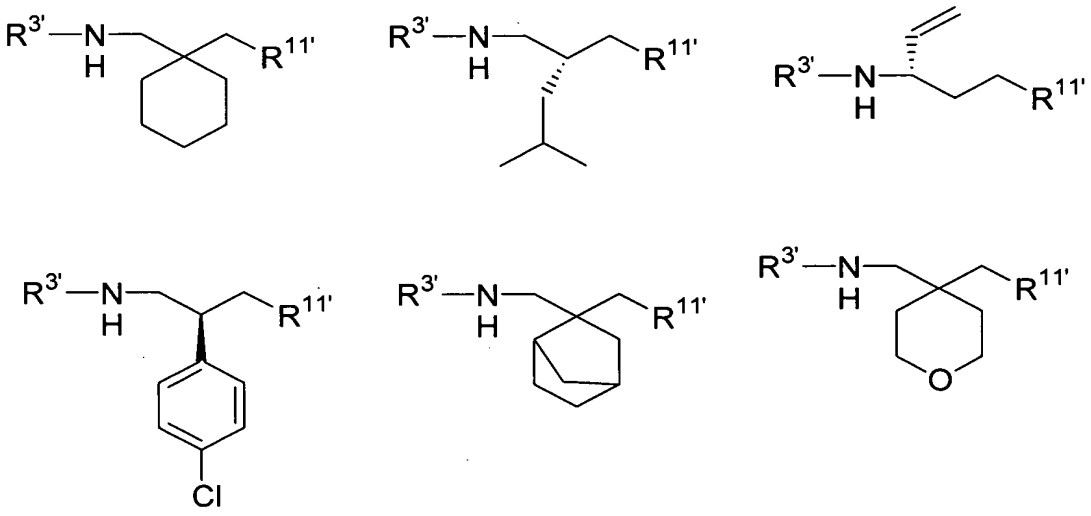
(II)

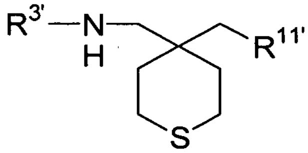
wherein:

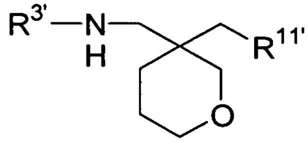
R^1 and R^2 are both α-OH; or R^1 is β-OH and R^2 is hydrogen; or R^1 is α-OH and R^2 is hydrogen; or R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is α-OH; or R^1 is β-OH and R^2 is α-OH; or R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen;

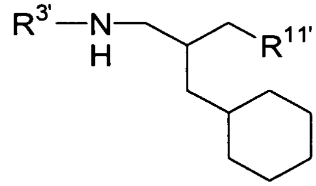
A is –O– or $–CH_2–$;

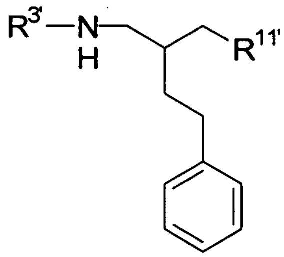
D'' is a GABA analog moiety selected from the group consisting of:

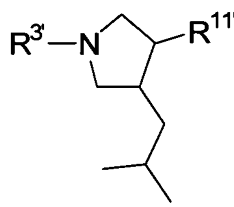


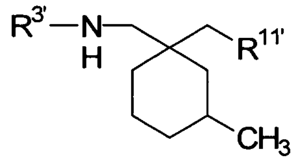

R3'
N
H
R11'
S

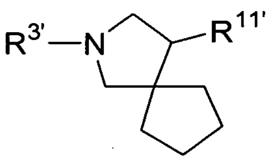

R3'
N
H
R11'
O

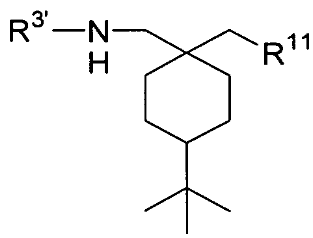

R3'
N
H
R11'

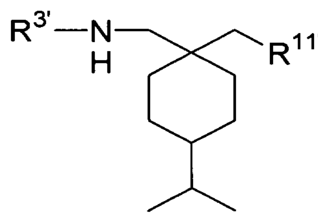

R3'
N
H
R11'

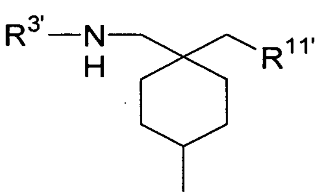

R3'
N
R11'

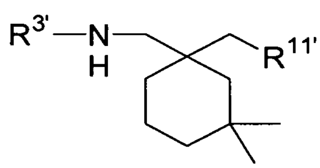

R3'
N
H
R11'
CH3

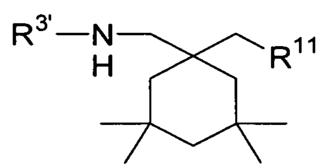

R3'
N
R11'

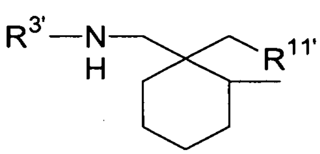

R3'
N
H
R11'

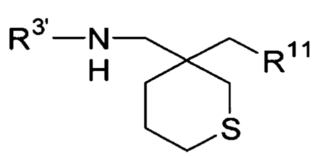

R3'
N
H
R11'

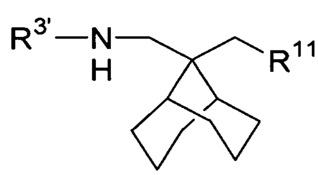

R3'
N
H
R11'

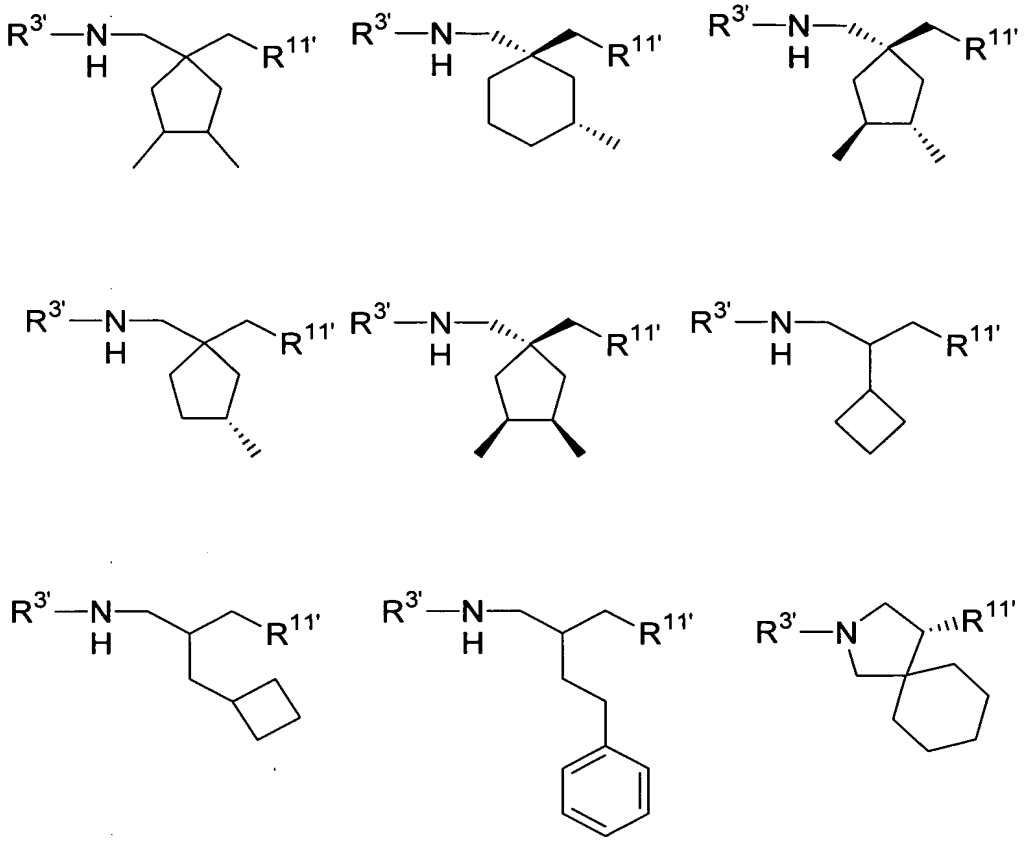

R3'
N
H
R11'


R3'
N
H
R11'


R3'
N
H
R11'


R3'
N
H
R11'
S


R3'
N
H
R11'



where

$R^{3'}$ is a covalent bond linking D" to Q^b;

$R^{11'}$ is carboxyl acid; and

Q^b is ~~a covalent bond or~~ a linker of the following formula:

$$-[E-(F^*)_n-G]_m-$$

wherein:

m is an integer of from 1 to 4;

n is 0 or 1;

E is ~~–NH– or~~ –O-;

F* is selected from a group consisting of alkylene, substituted alkylene, alkenylene, substituted alkenylene, alkynylene, and substituted alkynylene, ~~cycloalkylene, substituted cycloalkylene, cycloalkenylene, substituted cycloalkenylene, arylene, substituted arylene, heteroarylene, substituted heteroarylene, heterocyclene and substituted heterocyclene~~; and

G is ~~-OC(O)-~~, -C(O)- ~~or NH~~;

wherein Q^b is cleavable under physiological conditions provided that Q^b is not a linear oligopeptide consisting of 1, 2 or 3 α-amino acids and/or β-amino acids; or

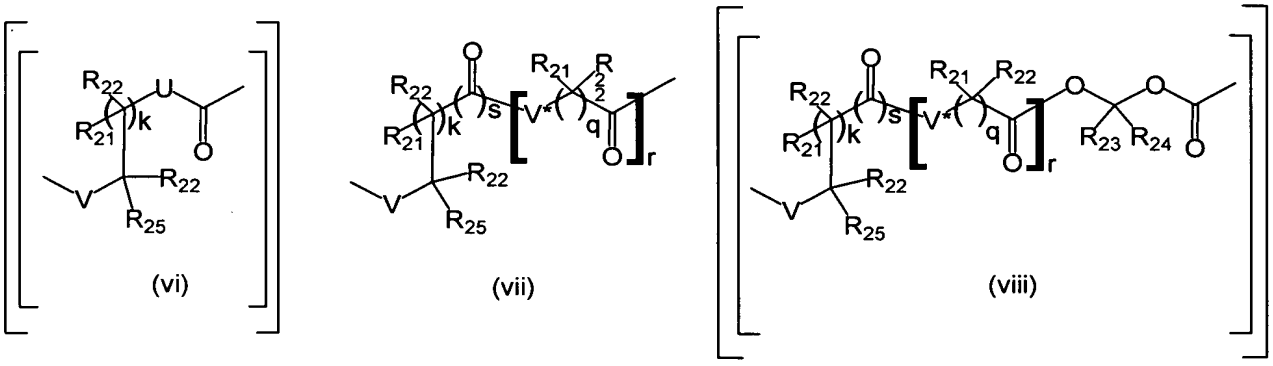
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The compound according to Claim 6, wherein F* is selected from a group consisting of alkylene, alkynylene and alkylene substituted with a group selected from the group consisting of –COOH, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2H$, $-P(O)(OR^{19})(OH)$, $-OP(O)(OR^{19})(OH)$, $-OSO_3H$, wherein R^{19} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl; and where one, two or three methylene groups are optionally replaced by a carboxy (-C(O)O-) group.

10. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 6 wherein Q^b is a cleavable linker selected from the group consisting of structures of formulae (vi) to (viii):



(vi) (vii) (viii)

wherein:

V and V* are ~~independently NH or~~ O;

~~U is O;~~

R^{25} is R^{21} or $(CR^{21}R^{22})_lZ$;

Z is selected from the group consisting of $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, $-SO_2H$, $-P(O)(OR^{19})(OH)$, $-OP(O)(OR^{19})(OH)$;

s is 1;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

k is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each q is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

l is 0 or 1;

R^{21} and R^{22} are independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl or R^{21} and R^{22} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or substituted heterocyclyl ring, or, when R^{20} and R^{22} are present and are on adjacent atoms, then together with the atoms to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl or substituted heterocyclyl ring;

~~R^{23} and R^{24} are independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl or R^{23} and R^{24} together with~~

~~the atoms to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or substituted heterocyclyl ring;~~

~~provided that when Q^b is of formula (vii), V and V* are NH, s is 1, k is 0 or 1, each q is either 1 or 2, and r is 0, 1 or 2 then R^{25} is Z~~.

11 – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound according to any of Claims 5[[,]] or 6 ~~or 18~~.

20. (Original) A method for treating a disease condition in a mammal, wherein said disease condition is selected from epilepsy, faintness attacks, hypokinesia, cranial disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, depression, anxiety, panic, pain, neuropathic pain, neuropathological disorders, gastrointestinal damage, inflammation and irritable bowel disease, which method comprises administering to said mammal a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19.